## **Ephesians** 5:1-20

## Review...

- THE DIVISION OF THE BOOK...
  - o Chapters 1-3 the doctrine of the blessings we have in Jesus Christ...
  - o Chapter 4-6 the practical duty we have in following Jesus Christ...
  - o They key word for the last 3 chapters is 'walk'...
- Ephesians 4:1-16 'Walk' worthy of the calling...
  - o In light of all that God has given to us we should walk worthy of our calling...
  - o God gave gifts to help us in our walk apostles / prophets / evangelists / pastors-teachers
- **Ephesians 4:17-32** Do not 'walk' like those in the world...
  - o Those in the world have no idea what life is all about they are completely confused...
    - Their minds are full of darkness and their hearts are calloused towards sin...
    - Therefore they do shameful things never thinking about the consequences!
  - o But that is not what we have learned from Jesus through His Word...
    - We have been given a new Spirit / new attitude we are a new man!
    - So we should walk accordingly not lying / no longer full of anger...
    - No longer stealing / or using harsh words / forgiving others as we have been forgiven!

## WALK IN LOVE... (3 THINGS)

- 1<sup>ST</sup> FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF LOVE... VS. 1-2
  - o We are the beloved children of God so we should act like it... vs. 1
    - If we say we are the children of God but we look and act just like the world problem...
      - We can say all the right things to sound like a Christian come to church every Sunday...
      - But it is not about what we say it is about the actions from our lives...
      - If we are the children of God then our lives should reflect that truth...
      - We should be following after God doing those things that show we are His kids!
    - Because we love our kids we tend to be very protective on whom they hang out with...
      - We know too well I Corinthians 15:33 "Bad company corrupts good character."
      - In the same way God wants us to be careful whom we spend time with...
      - If we 'hang out' with the wrong crowd we are going to be negatively influenced...
      - Be very careful where you allow yourself to go who you are identified with...
      - Choose VERY wisely whom you spend time with we will become just like them!
  - o God wants us to follow the example of Jesus... vs. 2
    - Jesus lived a life filled with love He loved us so much He died to save us...
    - His sacrifice was a 'sweet smelling aroma' and was pleasing to God...
    - As we spend time with Jesus then we will begin to follow His example...
    - Not living a selfish self-centered life but giving our lives as a sacrifice to God...
    - Choosing to live in a way that others might be able to see the Love of God in us...
    - II Corinthians 2:15 "Our lives... a fragrance presented by Christ to God..."

- 2<sup>ND</sup> What Love looks like... vs. 3-14
  - o The walk of love is the opposite of the walk of the world... vs. 1-7
    - Love does not live in sexual immorality / uncleanness...
      - **Hebrews 13:4 -** God intends intimate relationships to be only for marriage...
      - Any sexual relationship outside of marriage is considered sexual immorality...
      - If we partake in sexual sin we are not alone Jesus is with us I Corinthians 6:15...
      - How comfortable would you be sinning if you realized Jesus was right next to you...
      - A life that is dominated by sexual sin is a sign of a man who does not know God!
      - **I Thessalonians 4:3** "For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality."
    - Love does not live in greed which is idolatry...
      - Because those who are greedy worship the things of this world rather than God...
      - The love of money desire for stuff only get us into trouble I Timothy 6:9-10
      - If we desire more money we are missing the greatest riches of all Jesus!
      - We cannot dedicate our lives to money and possessions and to loving Jesus...
      - We waste our life on possessions that do not last rather than on eternal rewards!
      - Instead be content with food and clothing I Timothy 6:8 / our wages Luke 3:14...
      - **Hebrews 13:5** "Do not covet be content with such things as you have."
      - We learn to be content as we experience that nothing in life satisfies us but Jesus!
      - Philippians 4:11 "I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content..."
    - Love does not fill your speech with sexual jokes / cursing...
      - Telling 'green jokes' sexual humor to try and get a laugh...
      - Cursing using swear words / or using the name of God in vain...
      - We need to be very careful what we say the hurtful words we speak...
      - Because we will have to answer one day for every idle word Matthew 12:36
    - Those who do these things make excuses for them but do not be fooled...
      - People who do not know Jesus make all kind of excuses for their actions / words...
        - o We will get married one day / I cannot go to church I need to make more money...
        - o I did not mean what I said I was just kidding do not take it seriously...
      - Do not join in with them because those who do these things will not go to heaven...
        - o Instead the wrath of God will come upon those that practice these things!
        - o Not to say that we never sin but those who practice these things...
        - o As believers if we sin there should be remorse confession repentance...
        - o If there is no remorse no repentance for sin there is good reason for concern...
        - o We cannot say we are saved and continue to live in unrepentant sin!
        - o **I John 3:9** "When people keep on sinning, it shows they belong to the Devil..."
  - o Whose who walk in love are full of light... vs. 8-14
    - We used to be like the world full of darkness... vs. 8-9
      - Now that we know how to live our lives should show we are the children of light...
      - For the fruit of the Spirit is seen in goodness / righteousness / and truth!
      - We need to test ourselves to see what kind of fruit is growing on our branches...
      - If we are still acting like (or worse) than the world around us where is Jesus...
      - If you are wondering where your walk with the Lord is examine yourself...
      - Stand in the light of Christ and be honest about the sin in your life...

- I John 1:7 "If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."
- We should seek to find out what is pleasing to the Lord... vs. 10, 17
  - Do not just go through life thoughtlessly think about how to serve the Lord...
  - If you begin a new job you can just do whatever you want thoughtlessly...
  - But chances are your boss has expectations of you things he wants you to do...
  - And if you ignore him / you are likely going to upset him and get fired!
  - Better to start learning about your new boss to try and make them happy...
  - Take the time to figure out what you can do to please those we you working for!
  - In the same way we should make it our missions in life to learn how to please Jesus...
  - God has expectations of us there are thing that He desires from our lives...
  - Do not ignore Him or your will end up living your life in a way that displeases Him!
  - Take the time to get to know the Lord find out what He desires from our lives...
  - Make need to make it our mission in life to learn about Jesus / His Word...
  - So that we can make sure to please the Lord will our lives!
- Instead of going along with those who sin rebuke them / expose them... vs. 11-13
  - We are not talking about avoiding people who do not know Jesus...
    - o We need to be interacting with those who do not know Jesus...
    - o If we are not out in the world we cannot show the world the hope of Jesus!
    - o But though we are in the world we should not be like the world John 17:15
  - Because the things they do in secret are shameful to even talk about...
    - o Instead we shine the light on their deeds so they can see how evil they really are!
    - o The pictures we look at that would never want anyone to know we have...
    - o The secret sin in our heart stored away where we think no one will notice...
    - o Like a cockroach that will only come out in the dark but runs at the light...
    - o Shine the light of the Word on it confront sin in the lives of others...
    - o Better to face consequences now and learn not to sin...
    - o Than to live in sin never have anyone correct us then end up in hell...
- Wake up! Stand up for Jesus and let His light shine through your life... vs. 14
  - Many people 'sleep walk' through life living life with no thought of tomorrow...
  - **Romans 13:11** "Another reason for right living is that you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for the coming of our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed."
  - Some who do not know about the Gospel to our shame I Corinthians 15:34...
  - Rather than going along with those who are a bad example...
  - Stop sinning and start telling them about the Good News of Jesus...

## • $3^{RD}$ - How to walk in Love... vs. 15-21

- o Be careful how you live make the most of every opportunity to do good... vs. 15-16
  - Do not waste a single moment because we live in evil days...
  - We tend to fill our days with things that in the end mean absolutely nothing...
  - We 'waste' our time 'foolishly' on being mindlessly entertained by TV / games...
  - When there is a world full of people who do not know Jesus a world going to hell...
  - Seize the moment use every day to tell people about Jesus Christ!

- o Do not be drunk with wine instead be filled with the Spirit... vs. vs. 18
  - If you are in the habit of getting drunk stop it!
    - The Bible does not say you cannot drink- it does say it is sin to be drunk...
    - When full of alcohol you will do things you will regret (and not remember)...
    - So many men try and live by the 'power' of alcohol to get through the day...
    - Many drink to forget how terrible life is but it makes you bitter in the end...
    - The moment they sober up the reality of their poor choice is there to greet them!
    - Because the alcohol has no power to change their lives!
  - Does that mean should never drink / even a little do what the Holy Spirit says...
    - Can you drink wrong question should you drink right question...
    - I can drink all I want I just do not want to drink...
    - As with all things pray and ask the Lord if He wants you drink...
    - If you can drink with a clean conscience then no problem...
    - If the Spirit is convicting you of drinking ask Him to take away the desire to drink...
    - Romans 14:23 "...for whatever is not from faith is sin."
  - Make a wise choice I Corinthians 6:12...
    - Perhaps we enjoy an occasional drink is that sin not in of itself...
    - But the question is can we stop who is in control are we or the habit...
    - If we are no longer the ones in control of our 'freedom' it is no longer good...
    - If we want to stop but cannot then we are not longer in control of our lives...
    - You never hear someone say 'my life is so much better because I drink.'
    - In contrast many have said 'my life is much better since I stopped drinking.'
  - Instead of drinking be constantly filled with the Holy Spirit!
    - Not just once but over and over again for asking for the Holy Spirit
    - Luke 11:13 -"Your heavenly Father [will] give the Holy Spirit to those who ask..."
    - Instead of being filled with alcohol much better to be filled with the Holy Sprit!
    - We will receive the Power of God to be able to 'walk in love'!
    - When you are full of the Spirit you will do great things for God that never fade!
    - Rather than sitting down at the drinking table sit down to a Bible study...
- o  $\,$  Then we will sing psalms and hymns giving thanks to the Lord... vs. 19-20  $\,$ 
  - So often in life we forget to be thankful for all God has done for us given to us...
    - We tend to think about what we think we still need but really just 'want'...
    - If it was a need God would provide Luke 12:31 if we don't have it don't need it!
    - We overlook the simple things food / clothing / family / a home / our health...
    - But God calls us to be thankful for all things for all God has done for us every day!
    - Looking at what He has giving us not what we think we still need...
    - I Thessalonians 5:18 "No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."
  - The result of being filled with the Spirit is we are full of thankfulness...
    - We walk around praising the Lord a Psalm/song on our heart (or hymn)...
    - Because we have the right perspective looking to follow the example of Jesus...
    - The walk of Love powered by the Spirit shining with the light of Jesus Christ!